

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Steve Buckstein on March 20, 2008.

The application has been amended as follows:

In the specification

the paragraph on p.4 line 8
Please replace ~~paragraph [0013]~~ with the following: *QA 4/22/2008*

[0013] The nucleic acid can be either RNA or DNA, single or double stranded.

Typically the nucleic acid molecules are 20-120 nucleotides in length. The nucleotides that form the nucleic acid can be chemically modified to increase the stability of the molecule, to improve its bioavailability or to confer additional activity on it. For example the purine bases may be modified at the 6 or 8 positions, and pyrimidine bases at the 5 position with CH₃ or halogens such as I, Br or Cl. Modifications of pyrimidine bases also include position 2 modifications with NH₃, O⁶-CH₃, N⁶-CH₃ and N²-CH₃. Modifications at the 2' position are sugar modifications and include typically a NH₂, F or OCH₃ group. Modifications can also include 3' and 5' modifications such as capping.